

I.a. underground

THE ROCKETZ
Scaring Up Some Fun
at Knott's

BY RICHARD CASTANEDA

IF YOU HAVEN'T GONE TO KNOTT'S SCARY Farm yet, one of the main attractions this year, aside from the creepy mazes and the usual rides, is the Rocketz. Orange County's own the Rocketz have been rocking their way through three sets a night all month long.

Though they've been labeled "Psychobilly" by fans and critics alike, lead singer and guitarist, Tony "Slash" Red-Horse believes there's more to his band than meets the eye.

"We have plenty of other tunes that do not conform to the Halloween theme," he says.

Sure, they sing about zombies, dead girlfriends and other themes associated with Halloween, but there's still much more that the Rocketz have to offer.

"We do not consider ourselves pure Psychobilly," Red-Horse assures.

The Rocketz began their journey to rock stardom in 2003. Red-Horse was giving his friend John Dimambro upright bass lessons. The lessons led to songwriting, and those songs eventually became Rocketz songs.

Red-Horse later recruited drummer Andrew Martinez to complete the lineup. Dimambro left the band, and Tony Macias took over on bass in 2004.



(l to r) Andrew Martinez, Tony "Slash" Red-Horse and Tony Macias of the Rocketz

That year, their live shows became legendary. They played 54 shows locally without an album to support. Word of mouth and fan-generated support led to a label deal with Hairball8 Records a year later.

In 2005, they released *Rise of the Undead* and have since performed extensively throughout Southern California.

"We don't use set lists at regular shows," Red-Horse points out. "The songs we play are based solely on how I feel and what vibe I'm getting from the crowd."

The Rocketz hope to follow up *Rise of the Undead* with a new album to be released early 2008. For now, the Rocketz are excited about the Knott's gig and their brand new video, "Killing."

Rise of the Undead is currently available. The band will perform at 9 p.m. Oct. 24-31 at Knott's Scary Farm. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/therocketz.

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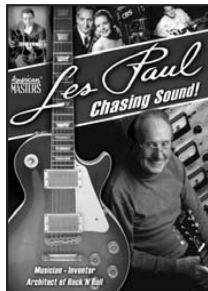
LES PAUL
Chasing Sound
(Koch Vision)

It's a good thing that Les Paul has such a curious mind. He put that mindset to use as a young musician, tinkered around and invented the electric guitar.

He also invented the recording techniques of over-dubbing and multi-tracking and popularized the solid-body guitar. Today the Gibson company makes a full line of guitars that carry his signature, all noted for the rich tones they produce.

Paul originally played hillbilly guitar but changed his style in the '50s, hitting big with a string of jazzy instrumentals where he experimented with getting unusual sounds out of his guitar. Today at 92-years old Paul still plays, mostly traditional jazz, and he is revered as a god by musicians like Keith Richards, Merle Haggard, Steve Miller and Bonnie Raitt, all of whom appear here.

Grade: A
Chasing Sound is currently available.



THIS GENERATION: MUSICAL YOUTH
Live in the U.K.
(MVD Visual)

Oh how time marches on. When this British reggae group put out their first single "Pass the Dutchie" it soared straight to the top of the charts.

Originally done by Jamaican group the Mighty Diamonds as "Pass the Kouchie," the song was about smoking pot, and everyone knew it. The slight lyric change was precipitated by the fact that all of the members of Musical Youth were at the time underage, and a song overtly about marijuana was deemed inappropriate for the youngsters.

Now 25 years later lead singer Dennis Seaton has lost most of his hair and gained a lot of weight, but his voice has aged nicely. Seaton's vocals now exude a soulfulness that wasn't possible in his youth and that makes listening to the old stuff all the better.

Grade: B
Live in the U.K. is currently available.

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